

11/12/08

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## **Tropical Forest Conservation Migrates to Madison**

**Madison, WI.** The Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation moved to Madison in November of this year, becoming the progressive city's only organization committed to tropical conservation.

Dedicated to protecting tropical habitat in South America for over 10 years, the Ceiba Foundation is a non-profit that helps rural landowners in the country of Ecuador sustainably protect local forests, and brings environmental education into schools.

In 2000 Ceiba signed the first-ever conservation easement in South America with a rural landowner to establish the El Pahuma Orchid Reserve, a family-run cloud forest rich in orchids. Currently we are working to establish a forest corridor to protect the last remnants of dry forest on Ecuador's coast, home to the endangered Grey-Backed Hawk and Red-Masked Parakeet.

Ceiba also operates intensive study abroad courses in Ecuador, including a new semester program that takes students on extended explorations of the Galapagos Islands and Amazon rainforest. These programs, accredited nationwide by the University of Wisconsin Madison, have proved very popular with UW undergraduates.

"Madison is a wonderfully progressive town with very informed and involved citizens," says Ceiba president Dr. Joe Meisel. "We already have strong relationships with the University here, and the support of numerous former students, so Madison was a natural choice for the foundation's new home."

Ceiba's northward migration will be trumpeted at the foundation's second annual Tropical Forest FunkRaiser, at the High Noon Saloon on December 18. Featuring three local funk bands, the night is expected to raise awareness of tropical causes, and much-needed support for conservation projects in Ecuador.

More information about Ceiba is available at <http://www.ceiba.org>

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